



UNDP

**PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE
LIVELIHOODS PROGRAMME**

United Nations Development Programme
Afghanistan Country Office
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UNDP in Afghanistan

The United Nations must continue to play its central and impartial role in the international efforts to assist the Afghan people in consolidating peace in Afghanistan and rebuilding their country. Security Council Resolution 1536 (2004) UNDP has been present in Afghanistan since the 1950s, providing development assistance to the country and helping build the capacity of many national institutions. During the 1990s, while many government institutions were jeopardized by civil war and neglected by the Taliban regime, UNDP continued to assist communities throughout the country. During that decade, UNDP delivered US\$200 million of assistance to Afghanistan, using its own resources as well as those mobilized through bilateral partners and its extensive outreach throughout the country.

The human development challenge for Afghanistan is enormous. The level of malnutrition in Afghanistan is one of the highest in the world – 70 percent. The percentage of Afghans with access to a sufficient water source is the lowest in the world – 13 percent. The majority of the population is living below the UN-defined poverty line – 56 percent. The depth of poverty in Afghanistan is reflected consistently in all human development indicators, revealing a mosaic of a nation in need of sustained assistance. Not surprisingly, therefore, Afghanistan has been identified as a global priority for addressing the Millennium Development Goals.

UNDP Programme

Within Afghanistan's broad National Development Framework (NDF) are many cross-cutting priorities that address gender equality, security and the rule of law, administrative and financial reforms, human rights, environmental integrity, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons to their communities, and reintegration of former combatants into society. Guided by the requirements set forth in the NDF, UNDP Afghanistan focuses its activities on the following UNDP global practice areas: poverty reduction, democratic governance, and crisis prevention and recovery.

All UNDP activities are undertaken in close collaboration with the Government of Afghanistan, UN agencies and donors. All UNDP programme activities aim to consolidate peace, enhance security and promote respect for the rule of law. UNDP projects also enhance government institutional capacity to provide public services and to create an enabling environment for legitimate livelihoods. UNDP works collaboratively with all partners to empower Afghan women and promote gender equality in Afghanistan, ensuring that gender issues are consistently mainstreamed and carefully paced.

The UNDP Afghanistan programme remains responsive to the changing needs of a nation still in transition from conflict to peace. Afghanistan is at a crucial point in moving from state building initiatives to emerging as a newly democratic state, and the opportunity to shift focus to longer term development and government support is at hand. Accordingly, the UNDP Afghanistan programme of activities is organized thematically into three pillars: State-Building & Government Support, Democratization & Civil Society Empowerment, and Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods.

As UNDP develops and implements its regular Country Programme in Afghanistan, a major focus on results-based management will remain. Future activities concentrate on institutionalizing accountability, transparency and integrity in the public service, continuing to strengthen democracy and democratic institutions such as the Constitution of Afghanistan, and further promoting access to and respect for justice and human rights for all Afghan citizens.

Promotion of Sustainable Livelihoods Programme

As crises subside, countries are frequently unable to meet their needs entirely on their own. Faced with long reconciliation and reconstruction processes, communities lack sufficient resources to meet all priorities simultaneously. National government services and physical infrastructure have been eroded, while populations have been worn down. People displaced by conflict want to return home, or to establish themselves in new communities. Weak economic markets and opportunities make it harder for families to move forward on their own. Meanwhile, the early recovery period is critical and contains windows of opportunity for peace-building efforts and laying out roots for more sustainable recovery.

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Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Employment Generation

National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP)

In the National Development Framework, the Afghan Government commits to an integrated and programmatic approach to building human and social capital. One large-scale Government programme using this approach is the National Area-Based Development Programme (NABDP). The NABDP aims to promote urgent recovery and longer-term development in priority areas while building the government's capacity to lead and coordinate participatory approaches to development in all provinces. This two-year programme was launched in April 2002.

Phase I of the NABDP was launched in August 2002 with the intention of completion in December 2004. The programme focused on three main components: i) immediate recovery support; ii) capacity development; iii) macro-economic regeneration. The design of NABDP Phase II began in late 2004. Based on the recommendation of the Local Project Appraisal Committee, the Government of Afghanistan and UNDP jointly decided to recruit an expert to work with key partners in formulating a draft project document for NABDP Phase II. Therefore, NABDP Phase I continued throughout the year 2005.

In Phase II more attention will be given to the development of strategic planning at a regional level and will engage a wider audience for capacity development programs, particularly towards those agencies that can improve the performance of developing livelihood generation programmes.

Building on the achievements of Phase I, the NABDP Phase II programme aims to contribute to the reduction of poverty and improvement in livelihoods in Afghanistan. It will serve as a key coordination mechanism to bring together key government and UN-supported programmes in the area of rural development, so as to maximize impact.

Commencing in the first quarter of 2005, the NABDP Phase II will include the following components:

- 1) Community Empowerment: Participatory and consultative mechanisms established at district/provincial level resulting in integrated rural development planning processes.
- 2) Economic Regeneration: Capacity in MRRD/Government established to formulate and regularly update comprehensive regional economic regeneration policies & strategies, identifying viable interventions for economic investment, poverty reduction and improving livelihoods.
- 3) Institutional Development: Institutional capacity and technical capabilities of MRRD and strategic partners strengthened to fulfill its mandate of promoting rural regeneration and livelihoods.
- 4) Implementation Support: MRRD's implementation capacity strengthened, private and public resources mobilized, and implementation arrangements among partners/stakeholders coordinated to deliver economic regeneration and rural development projects.

The NABDP is implemented through two different execution modalities. Direct Execution by UNDP finances the core program management team and directs investment funds to various UN implementing agencies, such as UNOPS, FAO and UNHABITAT. National Execution by MRRD, with technical support and services from UNDP, provides the bulk of investment, capacity development and regional economic regeneration support.

Achievements:**Immediate Recovery:**

- 3,500 metric tons of Urea distributed to 70,000 vulnerable families in all 32 provinces in 2002.
- 70 small-scale infrastructure projects, including school and hospital construction, water supply facilities, road construction and irrigation, were completed in Badakhshan, Herat, Shomali Plain and Kandahar, benefiting over 700,000 individuals in 2002.
- 3,300 shelters were completed in three districts of Shomali Plains in 2002.
- 500 earthquake-resistant shelters were constructed in Nahreen district of Baghlan province in response to the earthquake of March 2003.
- 69 projects were contracted out in nine provinces of Afghanistan in 2003.
- 174 projects were funded in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan in 2004.
- 18 projects were contracted in 9 provinces in 2005.
- 2,919 water points constructed for the provision of potable water to over 556,157 persons in 2004-2005.
- 7 piping scheme constructed for the provision of potable water to over 37,149 persons in 2004-2005.
- 7,125 pit latrines constructed benefiting 48,033 persons.
- 475,856 persons were reached through sanitation and hygiene education training sessions.

Capacity Development:

- Provincial plans were prepared for 32 provinces. As a result, four priority projects per district were identified. The Provincial Management Advisors (PMAs) and Capacity Development Advisors (CDAs), together with MRRD staff, facilitated the planning process.
- Rehabilitation of 15 MRRD provincial offices was completed.
- 43 MRRD provincial directors attended a five-month training course organized by BRAC in Bangladesh.
- A total of 131 subprojects were monitored by the NABDP team together with MRRD. Satisfactory progress of the work was reported. All projects were monitored by RRD provincial offices.
- 100 staff of MRRD enrolled in English language courses in Kabul.
- The Senior Women in Management programme was launched. Nineteen women working for a range of ministries were selected and started a six-month training in the areas of management, computers, English language and specialized skills.

Regional Economic Regeneration:

- Feasibility study of developing the Spinzar Cotton Gin in Kunduz was completed and a report released.
- Feasibility study on developing the niche industry of rose oil was conducted in May 2004 and an initial investor identified.
- Discussions with investors on Gulbahar Textile Mill are ongoing in support of a feasibility study.
- Preparation of studies in sectors including textiles, food stuff, livestock and horticulture is progressing.

Future Priorities:

- Signing the programme document between UNDP and MRRD.
- Recruitment of national and international staff.
- Resource mobilization
- Launching NABDP Phase II initially in three regions.
- Completion of priority development projects still ongoing in the provinces.
- Continue strengthening the capacity, reach and credibility of the MRRD and other government bodies involved with local development. Deepened support for the planning and coordination process will ensure participation, transparency and accountability at the provincial and district levels.

- With experience, the process will become increasingly inclusive, gathering broader input from civil society and the private sector and encouraging the growth of both. Linkages across all levels of government in the planning process will ensure that locally generated priorities are incorporated into the Government's planning and budgeting cycle.
- The NABDP will assist MRRD in addressing the issues which cause primary constraints on rural development in Afghanistan, such as alternative livelihoods for poppy-ridden areas and disarmament of illegal armed groups, through integrated rural development approach.
- The NABDP also plans to address the reintegration needs of returnees and IDPs through an integrated programme with UNHCR. This reintegration dimension is critical and is a priority concern for the UNDP in the future development of NABDP.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 182.2 million

Received Budget: US\$ 42.3 million

Shortfall: US\$ 139.9 million

Donors: Italy, Malaysia, United Kingdom, Sweden, Japan, New Zealand, Belgium, Canada, USA, EC, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF

Number of Project Staff: 10 international and 149 national staff

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Programme Officer in Charge: Soroush Javadi (soroush.javadi@mrrd.org)

Urban Development Group (UDG)

Growing out of the successful REAP programmes of 2002-2004, which focused on cash-for-work activities and urban renewal, the Urban Development Group (UDG) was established as a new project in July 2005. UDG continues some of the aspects of REAP, but with different emphases and approaches. UDG's project planning and implementation are guided by the following principles:

a. Employment generation:

Facilitate employment generation in support of vulnerable groups within the society, in particular returnees, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), Afghans with Disabilities and women.

b. Reintegration:

Provide support to the ex-combatants from UNDP's Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) Programme through on-the-job training and "cash for work" projects in order to facilitate their reintegration into society.

c. Infrastructure for economic growth:

Facilitate infrastructure improvement which will directly contribute to increasing urban economic development.

d. Healthier environment:

Improve living conditions in the urban areas, in order to create, control and maintain a healthy living environment for the rapidly growing urban population.

e. Natural environment:

Deliver projects in a manner that takes into account the importance of environment conservation and sustainable management of natural resources.

f. Participation, ownership and sustainability:

Directly involve local community groups and government authorities in the project delivery cycle, including planning, implementation and monitoring & evaluation phases, in order to ensure the local ownership and sustainability of the project.

g. Applicability:

Develop standard models of urban infrastructure that may be applied in other urban settings of the country.

h. Universal access:

All designs and interventions will take into account the requirement for universal accessibility (e.g. making urban facilities easily accessible for the aged and Afghans with Disabilities).

i. Collaboration for synergy:

Where possible, collaborate with other aid agencies and existing initiatives in order to achieve maximum effect for the beneficiaries in an efficient manner, while minimising time and effort and avoiding duplication of work.

Achievements:

UDG's progresses and achievements made in 2005 include:

- Disability Resource Centre: In October 2005, UDG commenced construction of the Kabul Disability Resource Centre with funding from the French Government through UNDP's National Programme for Action on Disability (NPAD). The centre is designed to be universally accessible and will provide Afghans with Disabilities a place to access various benefits and take advantage of resources made available for training and learning purposes. HE Mr. Hadi Hadi, Minister of Martyrs and Disabled, says

that “the Centre will be used as a model to demonstrate all aspects of accessibility for interested parties in the design and construction trade.” Completion and opening is expected in April 2006.

- **Kabul City Public Toilets Project:** In collaboration with Kabul Municipality and the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH), UDG finalised the design of a universally accessible public toilet which also makes provisions for on-going maintenance and provide employment. 11 of these units are presently under construction as cash-for-work programme employing ex-combatants and IDPs at locations throughout Kabul City. Construction is planned to be complete in April 2006. The location of each facility was provided by Kabul Municipality in accordance with the Kabul City Plan.
- **Infrastructure support to Kabul University:** UDG continued the refurbishment project within the Kabul University Faculty of Engineering. The refurbishment of the Faculty Library was completed in late 2005 and electrical refurbishment was commenced, which is due for completion at the end of January 2006.
- **Regional Initiative for Sustainable Economy (RISE):** With contribution of the Peace Building Grant Aid of the Japanese Government, a major programme called RISE was initiated in mid-2005. This programme aims at supporting the Afghan Government (including MUDH) to: (a) carry out capacity building for regional authorities in monitoring and evaluation of both foreign aid and government development projects; and (b) provide immediate assistance to vulnerable groups in society. It is a joint programme implemented in partnership with UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA). The second half of the year was spent for preparation for implementation, including development of scope of works, appointment of an international RISE liaison officer, consultation with a number of partners, collaborators, relevant authorities, potential beneficiaries. Activities planned within the framework of RISE include construction of regional resource centres for women and Afghans with Disabilities, urban drains and channels, slaughter houses and upgrading of market areas, along with minor infrastructure support to FAO intervention in the rural areas. Designs and locations for these facilities and infrastructure are selected in consultation with the regional Governor’s Office, the Municipalities, MUDH and Ministry of Women’s Affairs (MoWA). The works will be carried out on a cash-for-work basis providing employment opportunities to ex-combatants, returnees, IDPs and, wherever possible, women and Afghans with Disabilities.
- **Reopening and expansion of UDG Regional Offices:** On 17 October 2005, the UDG Jalalabad regional office was reopened. The original office was gutted and all equipment destroyed during the Jalalabad riots of May 2005. The reopening of this office had a symbolic meaning of UNDP’s undying commitment to the region. In addition, regional offices in Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif have been newly opened in late 2005. All three regional offices are managed by UNV staff, and will play a key role in various activities planned for 2006, including those within the framework of RISE.

Future Priorities:

- Commence RISE infrastructure intervention and Joint Monitoring and Evaluation
- Complete Kabul City Public Toilets Project
- Complete funding proposal for Women’s Garden (Baghe Zanana)
- Complete Kabul University Auditorium Roof Repairs Project
- Complete Kabul University Engineering Faculty Electrical Works Project
- Engage consultancy to guide UN-HABITAT / UDG joint proposal of capacity building
- Engage consultancy to evaluate effectiveness of the REAP cash-for-work programmes and to make recommendations to optimise cash-for-work type interventions

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 8.75M

Received Budget: US\$ 5.715M

Shortfall: US\$ 3.035M

Donors: Japan, UNDP Core

Number of Project Staff: 6 international and 55 national staff

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Partnership for Private Sector Development (PPSD)

The Government of Afghanistan recognises a vibrant private sector is an engine for growth and a means to empower the poor to participate more equitably in the benefits of economic growth. In 2004, UNDP signed an agreement with the Ministry of Commerce for a programme of activities designed to assist the development of the private sector and sustainable livelihoods in Afghanistan. Phase II continues the programme from 2006-2008. In collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and other donors, PPSD targeted specific areas to support efforts to promote entrepreneurship, institutional development and an enabling environment for free enterprise. Phase II components include:

- Institution training and development: PPSD's designated partner is the Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI). The project will assist the Chamber to deliver more valued services to members and attract more businesses to join ACCI. Training will include IT, English language and staff capacity. PPSD will also target other business-oriented institutions, chambers and business associations for training and other institutional development assistance.
- Partnerships: PPSD will partner other UN programmes and donors to enhance private sector outcomes. PPSD will help train disarmed soldiers and Afghans with disabilities, including assistance in helping them obtain jobs or start their own businesses. PPSD will also work with the National Programme for Action on Disabilities to develop a marketing brand and strategy to help promote disabled entrepreneurs.
- Export development: PPSD will focus on export-oriented and import-substitution products from micro and small businesses. This will include a survey of the geographical distribution of traditional skills including handicrafts. PPSD will support several groups or industries to develop their businesses through productive investment in areas such as quality control, packaging and marketing.
- Support to Afghanistan's trade, investment and enterprise policies: PPSD will support, principally, the Ministry of Commerce in drafting national policies to promote private enterprise, and Afghanistan's economic integration within the region and international community. Support will also be extended to other business-oriented institutions such as the Afghan Investment Support Agency (AISA).

Achievements:

Phase 1 achievements included:

- The provision of a business-registration database to assist AISA to track, register and provide information to investors on active, licensed businesses throughout Afghanistan.
- A market-sector assessment on the horticulture sector was disseminated in the local and international business communities, donors and other stakeholders.
- Training Needs Assessment of the business community in Afghanistan conducted and results published.
- Cross-sectoral study on the small- and medium-sized enterprise sector was published in March 2005.

Challenges and Risks:

- Insecurity, lack of productive infrastructure and limited access to markets has encouraged a largely informal and illicit economy. Support to vulnerable groups is required until market-based opportunities are created.
- Government restructuring has caused instability within many ministries and government institutions with repercussions on assistance to private enterprise and support for policy development.
- Active networking with GoA, NGOs and other donors on private sector issues to learn from their experiences and ensure collaboration and not replication of activities

- Assistance to vulnerable groups to support their more effective participation within the formal economy

Future Priorities:

- Productive assistance provided to micro and small enterprises capable of import competition and/or exporting, in order for the benefits of economic growth to be more equitably distributed.
- Assistance provided to viable business-oriented institutions with long-term sustainability and business plans
- Mutually productive partnerships with other donors, ministries and institutions to be established to provide multiplier effects on benefits for the private sector
- Continue to support this unique window of opportunity for Afghanistan to economically integrate more effectively within the region and international community

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 2,300,000

Received Budget: US\$ 200,000

Shortfall: US\$ \$ 2,100,000

Donors: Germany, UNDP and USAID

Number of Project Staff: three international, three UN volunteers and three national staff

Focal Points:

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Promotion of Regional Trade Cooperation Project

“Afghanistan’s Regional Economic Cooperation: CAIP” Conference 10-12 May 2004, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan identified the following pillars for Regional Cooperation:

1. Afghanistan as the new Regional Player
2. Trade, Transport and Transit
3. Socio-Economic Cooperation

As a follow up to the Bishkek Conference, UNDP and the Ministry of Commerce initiated a regional project in November 2004, Promotion of Regional Supply of Goods, Services and Expertise for Afghanistan Reconstruction. The project aims at increasing connectivity, cooperation and competitiveness between Afghanistan and its neighbors, as well as validating the importance of Afghanistan as a ‘land bridge’. During 2006 the project aims at working in close cooperation with UNDP’s Partnerships for Private Sector Development Programme.

Achievements:

A. Bilateral Business Meeting (Afghanistan – Uzbekistan) March 2005:

- Government, trade support institution and business representatives from Afghanistan and Uzbekistan met over two days in Tashkent.
- First bilateral discussion on the issues of common economic interest between the Afghan and Uzbek governments and business representatives.
- Focus on engaging businesses from Uzbekistan to participate in Afghanistan’s reconstruction.

B. Rapid Appraisal Mission to revive Afghanistan’s Fruit Processing Sector:

A framework for reviving Afghanistan’s fruit sector through South-South cooperation between Malaysia and Afghanistan was the basis of the mission, fielded in October 2005. This mission was coordinated by the UNDP Country Office in Malaysia. The activities delivered and foreseen during 2006 are:

- On the basis of the preliminary appraisal report submitted in December 2005, a delegation from Afghanistan is visiting Malaysia in February 2006 to study technologies and processes employed by that country to gain maximum added-value
- Pilot activities will be launched in 2006 to improve grading, drying and processing by growers and processors in Afghanistan

C. ECO Trade and Industry Conference and Fair, Kabul:

Afghanistan hosts the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI). The Afghanistan Investment Support Agency (AISA) along with the Ministry of Commerce of Afghanistan organized the Trade and Investment Conference and Trade Fair in Kabul, during November 2005. The project delivered the following activities:

- Substantive and organizational inputs, to AISA, for the successful conduct of the conference
- Substantive support and participation at the 4th High Level Expert Group Meeting on Trade, Investment, and Other Related Matters
- Support to businesses from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to participate at the ECO trade fair – a first for the participating companies

D. Regional Economic Conference, Kabul:

The Governments of Afghanistan and the United Kingdom, through its G-8 Presidency, organized the Regional Economic Conference with ministerial participation from eleven countries from the region. The conference aimed at improved economic cooperation between countries in the region and Afghanistan. The project delivered the following activities in support of the conference, through AISA:

- Support to the organization of the Technical Working Group on Trade, Investment and the Business Climate with participation from Governments and the Private Sector. suggestions made

by the working group were incorporated into the Kabul Declaration on Regional Economic Cooperation

- Substantive inputs, through expert presentations and papers, on regional trade potential and the legal aspects of international trade

E. CSATTF Second Trade and Customs Working Group Meeting, Bangkok:

The Project was invited to participate at the meeting organized by the Central and South Asia Transport and Trade Forum (CSATTF) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Delegations from four CSATTF countries - the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Republic of Tajikistan, and Republic of Uzbekistan - participated in the meeting. The Director General of Customs of the Royal Kingdom of Thailand as well as resource persons from UN agencies and other International Organizations were also present. The session on Trade, Investment and Private Sector Participation was jointly organized by the project and the ADB. CSATTF is a key partner for the project as its work programme complements that of the project.

Challenges and Risks:

Many of the activities the project seeks to implement are conditional to the availability of political will among the countries involved,

The key risks to successful implementation are:

- Security situation in Afghanistan;
- Perception in the region of Afghanistan as the source of terrorism and drugs; and
- Existing reliance on traditional suppliers

Future Priorities:

1. Highlighting business opportunities in Afghanistan, and effective dissemination, and promoting the country through events focusing on doing business with Afghanistan and highlighting technical expertise opportunities in the country
2. Building capacity of the regional trade support institution, in Afghanistan, for effectively promoting regional business linkages
3. Putting into place data sets for highlighting opportunities for regional trade development, through analyzing regional trade flows, supply and demand analyses
4. Integrate Afghanistan into regional economic cooperation activities to reinforce historical economic links, with its traditional partners, while engaging non-traditional partners for future economic activity.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 910,000
 Received Budget: US\$ 735,000
 Shortfall: US\$ 175,000

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Energy & Environment

Afghanistan has persistently been facing significant environmental hurdles and challenges. The war, conflict and neglect associated with harsh natural conditions caused numerous environment constraints in urban and rural areas all over the country like topsoil erosion, loss of vegetation cover, deforestation, dispersed wildlife patterns, reduction of under ground water. And the country faces further lack of water resource management, poor waste management, declined air quality and increased urban pollution.

Considering the critical status of the environmental, the government of Afghanistan through a letter dated 20th June 2004 and signed by the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, requested UNDP support in initiating a project proposal for GEF funding for a Medium Sized Proposal (MSP) for capacity development and mainstreaming of sustainable land management.

Since UNDP considers “Environment Protection” as one of its essential focus areas, vital for sustainable development in this country, it will attempt to play a significant role in strengthening environment protection efforts in Afghanistan.

Under Energy and Environments portfolio, UNDP Afghanistan initiated Capacity Building for Sustainable Land Management for Afghanistan, Greening Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN) and Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis of the Energy Sector in Afghanistan. A UNDP Regional Office Bangkok, Energy and Environment Programming mission carried out a comprehensive assessment of energy and environment issues in Afghanistan in November 2005 which resulted in formulating an Energy & Environment Framework for the UNDP Environment Programme 2006-2008 in Afghanistan.

Achievements:

- PDF A ‘Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management’ was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and UNDP.
- UNDP Afghanistan Environment Officer (International Position) was recruited to develop the environment portfolio for the Country Office.
- An office was established in the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry to implement the preface of the project “Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management”.
- An Advisory Board was called, comprising the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), UNEP and UNDP.
- A 2-day National Seminar on Desertification and Land Degradation was held, with Senior Experts giving substantial presentations, and working groups formulating recommendations for future actions.
- Formulation of a Medium Size Project MSP proposal for ‘Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management for Afghanistan’ for 1:1 ratio GEF funding
- UNEP support was sought for mutual cooperation to address environmental issues in Afghanistan.
- UNCT led environmental programme ‘Greening Afghanistan Initiative’ (GAIN) was provided with technical and advisory support, and a UNDP specific Project Proposal was formulated: ‘Environmental Awareness Raising & Capacity Building Project’. The project document was signed on September 14 by the National Environment Protection Agency NEPA and UNDP. Implementation has started immediately.
- Promotional Material for GAIN awareness rising campaigns developed.

- Environmental issues taken up into the CPAP, and framework drafted for UNDP Environment Programme 2006-2008.
- Participation in excursion with UNEP and the Government of Afghanistan and provision of updated data on Sistan Basin for the UNDP Iran Country Office to finalize a report on 'Restoration and Sustainable Use of Shared Sistan Basin'
- Participation in the UNEP hosted technical meeting on "Integrated Water Resource Management and the Sistan Basin Wetlands" (Geneva, 5-7 December 2005) with delegates from Afghanistan and Iran Governments.
- A 'Rapid Assessment and Gap Analysis' of the energy sector in Afghanistan was conducted. This study has been conducted by the technical and financial support of UNDP Regional Energy Programme for Poverty Reduction (REP-PoR) who launched a Rapid Regional Assessment and Mapping Exercise to determine the baselines and priorities of the countries in the region. REP- PoR aims to contribute toward the achievement of MDGs target through broad-based interventions in three thematic areas namely improving access to energy services, promoting efficient use of energy, and increasing access to financing for sustainable energy.

Future Priorities:

- Developing Environment Portfolio within UNDP Country Office.
- Complete UNDP Environment Programme document 2006-2008 and start implementation
- Strengthen links between the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, National Environment Protection Agency (NEPA), UNEP, and other environmental actors in the country.
- Finalization and submission of Medium Size Project MSP proposal for 'Capacity Development for Sustainable Land Management for Afghanistan' for 1:1 ratio GEF funding.
- In the framework of the MSP, develop a National Action Plan for combating desertification according to the requirements of the UN convention.
- Implementation of the Greening Afghanistan Initiative (GAIN) project on 'Community Mobilization for Tree Survival and Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Support to NEPA'.
- Work out cooperation and coordination arrangements in order to follow up the "Restoration and Sustainable Use of Shared Sistan Basin"

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget:	US\$ 1,980,000 plus WFP Food Contribution
Received Budget:	US\$ 49,131 for GEF PDF A
	US\$ 350,000 for UNDP GAIN
Shortfall:	WFP Food Contribution
Donors:	GEF, WFP, UNDP, GAIN
Number of Project Staff:	1 International and 4 National

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Reduction of Threats to Human Security

Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP)

Disarmament Demobilization & Reintegration (DDR)

The UN with Japan, as the lead donor country, supports Afghanistan's New Beginnings Programme (ANBP), a UNDP project that assists the government in the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of the Afghan Military Forces (AMF). By dismantling the AMF which consists of both professional and jihadi personnel, the government can focus on creating a professional national army. This new army allows the government to assert control over the security situation while encouraging commanders and their militias to reintegrate into Afghanistan's evolving political, social and economic life.

ANBP has completed disarmament by disarming over 63,000 combatants and providing them with education, training and/or job opportunities suited to their particular needs, interests and skills. Staffed primarily by Afghan personnel, the programme is based in Kabul, where its central office is linked to eight regional offices and a set of mobile units. The project includes the following components:

- Disarmament: Assistance in weapons collection and storage.
- Demobilization: Assistance for former AMF members, including commanders, officers and soldiers, in identifying alternate sources of income in return for leaving behind military life.
- Reintegration: Packages, including de-mining, vocational training/job placement, agriculture, contracting teams, small business, teacher training and placement in the Afghan National Army or Afghan National Police, to help former combatants support their families and contribute to society.

ANBP's mandate only requires it to dismantle the AMF, but its unique capacity in Afghanistan has brought about additional responsibilities. In support of the Afghan Government, and at its specific request, ANBP has: cantoned heavy weapons; started a nationwide ammunition survey, collecting and destroying the most dangerous anti-personnel mine and ammunition stockpiles; and collected data on, and assisted in the disbandment of illegal armed groups.

Anti-Personnel Mine & Ammunition Stockpile Destruction (Mine & Ammunition)

Recognizing the logistical and security risk of surplus ammunition and anti-personnel mines in military and civil communities, the Anti-Personnel Mine and Ammunition Stockpile Destruction (Mine & Ammunition) programme supports government in collecting and destroying the most dangerous stockpiles. The destruction of anti-personnel mines as part of ANBP's ongoing ammunition survey effort not only alleviates the threat of the ordnance itself, but will simultaneously assist the Government in meeting its stockpile destruction obligations as a State Party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG)

Recognizing the need to support and strengthen a Government initiative to tackle the problems caused by numerous illegal armed groups in Afghanistan, the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) programme aims at supporting the Government in improving human security through disarmament and disbandment of illegal armed groups and reducing the level of armed violence in the community. This programme also seeks to empower existing Government programmes for socio-economic development to enhance stability and the promotion of good governance, which is an essential and integral part of Security Sector Reform in Afghanistan.

Achievements:

- Completed disarmament by disarming 63,380 officers and soldiers belonging to the AMF.
- A total of 53,232 weapons have been collected programme-wide. An additional 20,963 weapons have been destroyed.
- Helped decommission 260 military units throughout Afghanistan.
- 57,431 ex-combatants who have entered the DDR programme have already started one of ANBP's reintegration packages that help them return to civilian life and become productive citizens.
- Over 30,000 ex-combatants have completed the ANBP reintegration process.
- Conducted a comprehensive survey that pinpointed more than 5,800 heavy weapons throughout Afghanistan. ANBP discovered many more heavy weapons scattered throughout the country as the cantonment process began.
- Cantoned more than 12,000 heavy weapons and estimates that the vast majority of all working and repairable heavy weapons known to exist in Afghanistan have been cantoned. ANBP had declared five areas of the country – Jalalabad, Kandahar, Gardez, Mazar-e Sharif, and Bamyan – free of all known working or repairable heavy weapons. Kabul has also been declared free of heavy weapons by the International Security Assistance Force.
- Deployed eight ammunition survey teams to Jalalabad, Kandahar, Gardez, Herat, Kabul, Panjshir, Kunduz and Mazar-e Sharif. The teams have discovered and surveyed more than 714 distinct ammunition (including mines) caches, equating to 29,585 metric tonnes of ordnance surveyed.
- Destroyed almost 1,200 anti-personnel mines and 460 anti-tank mines.
- As of January 26, 2006, 16,868 heavy and light weapons as well as 25,505 pieces of boxed and 69,259 pieces of unboxed ammunition have been handed over to an verified by ANBP's weapons collections teams from Illegal Armed Groups.

Challenges and Risks:

- Funding remains a critical issue. Budget shortfalls remain for DDR, DIAG and the Mines & Ammunition Project. Of most pressing concern is the viability and continuation of the Mines and Ammunition Project. In late 2005, the project was close to the point of being shut down by ANBP due to a lack of ongoing funding. It was only after the intervention of UNDP which loaned ANBP monies from UNDP core funding was the project maintained into the year. For January 2006, ANBP is continuing to borrow funds from UNDP to meet current budget shortfalls. ANBP will be faced with dismantling the project unless additional funding is secured in the near future.
- ANBP has secured most of the funding estimated to implement DDR; however, due to the possibility of having to enter over 6000 officers into quick impact reintegration schemes, the exact shortfall remains unknown, leaving ANBP with potentially little time to mobilize resources.
- As the DDR mandate comes to a close, a challenge will be to develop a long-term strategy that maintains support to the ex-combatants.
- The Government's Afghan National Development Strategy has determined December 2007 as the deadline for the disbandment of all illegal armed groups in the country. ANBP's current mandate expires June 2006. A post June 2006 mandate for ANBP needs to be contemplated in order to meet this goal or the canvassing of other viable options to ensure the completion of the DIAG process. The relative short period of time remaining in the programme may not provide an adequate period to build the capacity of the Afghan government to take over this project.

Future Priorities:

- Secure additional funding, both from consistent as well as new sources. Additional funding is critical to ensure that the programme can continue to facilitate DDR, DIAG and the Mines & Ammunition project.
- As the former combatants complete their reintegration training, ANBP will focus on linking their skills to employment opportunities/sustainable livelihood.
- As the DDR mandate comes to a close, ANBP will have to focus on finalizing options for the organization after June 2006.

Partnerships and Resources:

DDR Target Budget: US\$ 145,206,620
 Received Budget: US\$ 142,506,620
 Shortfall: US\$ 2,700,000
 Donors: Japan, United Kingdom, Canada, United States, Netherlands, European Union, Norway, Switzerland

Ammunition Target Budget: US\$ 16,070,492
 Received Budget: US\$ 1,961,945
 Shortfall: US\$ 14,108,547
 Donors: Canada, UNDP

DIAG Target Budget: US\$ 8,552,957
 Received Budget: US\$ 4,772,534
 Shortfall: US\$ 3,780,423
 Donors: United Kingdom, Canada, UNDP

Project Staff: 52 international and 595 national staff

Focal Points: Yukari Ota, programme officer (yukari.ota@undp.org)
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Mine Action Programme

Mine Action Partnership Programme

Reconstruction Related Mine Action

Projects

Kabul International Airport Mine Clearance

Afghanistan is still heavily affected by landmines and unexploded ordnance. They affect some 6.4 million Afghans who are either living in or planning to return to one of 2,400 affected communities. On July 28th 2002, President Karzai announced that Afghanistan would become a state party to the Mine Ban Treaty (the Ottawa Convention), and subsequently the Government of Afghanistan officially ratified the treaty with the determination to free Afghanistan from the impact of anti-personnel mines. Under Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA), the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations are putting their efforts toward achieving this objective.

UNDP helps address the landmine problem from a long-term development perspective, creating the conditions for the resumption of normal economic activity, reconstruction, and development. In coordination with Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (MACA), UNDP is currently undertaking the following projects in the mine action sector.

Mine Action Partnership Programme:

Mine Action Partnership Programme was launched as an initial project to help expand the partnership between UNDP and international donors and the private sector in the area of mine action. The project, funded by Contrak International, focused on surveying and mine clearance in the military training camp in Darulaman, Kabul. Three implementing NGOs were tasked and coordinated by the Mine Action Center for Afghanistan (MACA) through its Area Mine Action Center for Kabul.

Achievements:

- The project was completed on 30 September 2003, and the site was handed over to Contrak International.
- Four anti-personnel mines were cleared.
- 7,468 UXO (unexploded ordnance) were cleared.
- 91,141 fragments were cleared.
- 39,930 sq meters of mine-affected areas were cleared.
- 848,990 sq meters of battle areas were cleared.

Future Priorities:

- Transfer of the remaining balance from META to MCPA;
- Complete the survey in a specified area by MCPA.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 384,073

Received Budget: US\$ 384,073

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Donors: Contrak International (USA)

Focal Point: Fakhruddin Azizi, Programme Officer (fakhr.azizi@undp.org) Mirwais Sarah, Programme Associate (mirwais.sarah@undp.org)

Reconstruction-related mine clearance

As the situation in Afghanistan gradually shifts from the emergency phase to long-term development, the number of large reconstruction project is increasing. However, significant areas of the country remain contaminated with landmines and UXO, and de-mining is a prerequisite for reconstruction works to start. UNDP, MACA and NGOs have been collaborating in response to the mine action needs of the country.

The implementing partners of UNMACA are working on the main roads to different provinces to provide the opportunity for the construction companies to do the reconstruction work.

Achievements:

- Mine clearance on the Kabul – Kandahar road reconstruction site was completed, and road has been reconstructed in a timely manner. 71km of Kabul-Gardez road has been cleared of mines. Mine clearance is on going across the country including Ghazni – Shanon, Jalalabad – Asmar, Grishk – Delaram.

Future Priorities:

- Better coordination with Ministries and Donors is crucial to be more efficient and proactive.

Partnerships and Resources for 2006:

Target Budget: US\$ 18,800,000
 Received Budget: US\$ to be confirmed by USAID
 Shortfall: US\$
 Donors: USAID

Focal Point: Fakhruddin Azizi, Programme Officer (fakhr.azizi@undp.org)
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Kabul International Airport-Mine Clearance Project

Kabul International Airport is without doubt one of the most important facilities for Afghanistan, which will connect the country with other world. Unless the airport becomes fully capacitated, the Afghan economy would not take off. Mine Action Center for Afghanistan (MACA) and its Implementing Partners under MAPA have been continuously clearing mines and UXO from the Kabul International Airport. In 2002, emergency clearance was conducted to allow the key areas of the KIA to be used. As the remaining areas were not a program priority most capacities were moved from the KIA to higher Humanitarian priorities.

Achievements:

To date in this area, UNOPS/MACA and its implementing partners have cleared 223,396 sq meters of minefield and 3,184,159 square meters of battle area. The majority of the area with over 4,763,910 square metres of battle area and minefield has been surveyed. There is a need to clear a total of 1,854,760 sqm (1,816,960 sqm battle area and 37,800 sqm mined area).

Future Priorities:

- the whole Mine belt around the perimeter fence
- Extension of Runway to both sides (East and West)
- Areas to the South of the Runway for use by Ministry of Transport
- To survey 1,455,500 sqm
- To clear 2,636,731 sqm (battle are and mine fields)

Partnerships and Resources for 2006:

Target Budget: US\$ 529,251
Received Budget: US\$ World Bank
Shortfall: US\$ 900,000
Donors: World Bank

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Support to Mine Action Capacity Building in Afghanistan:

The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA) was established in 1989. It consists of the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA) and 16 implementing partners. MACA has been managed by the UN since its inception, as the national regime was fragile and unable to take on the acute needs of mine action in Afghanistan until 2001.

However, the national context has undergone a drastic change since 2001, and the present government is developing its capacity to address the national problems. It is therefore imperative to revisit the current mode of assistance to mine action, still heavily led by the UN, and move towards nationalization of the programme, in which the UN could provide backstop support to the government initiative.

Globally, UNDP has a mandate to assist in the capacity development of national governments in mine action, and this Preparatory Assistance project will be an instrument for UNDP to embark on the implementation of such support in full partnership with the Afghan Government. There are two primary goals of the project:

- Assist the Afghan Government in developing a detailed transition plan of mine action authority from UN-coordinated MAPA to a national structure, which will encompass the legislative and administrative aspects of transition.
- Build capacity within relevant areas of the Afghan Government in order to prepare civil servants to assume a coordination and policy-making role for mine action in Afghanistan, to ensure a smooth and gradual transfer of responsibility for the coordination of mine action, and to carry out the stated objective of the Mine Ban Convention.

Achievements:

- The Capacity Development Segment of the Transition Coordination Office started in June 2005 with the arrival of the Capacity Development Advisor.
- At the end of Phase I (June – December 2005), UNDP support to the Mine Action Transition process is well integrated within the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA).
- In close cooperation with the UNMACA senior management (program manager and heads of departments) a so called triangle approach has been worked out in which Mine Action strategic planning (end-state strategy), the current UNMACA organizational development and the design of the future national Mine Agency are integrated.
- The design of this integrated approach was based on a broad and participatory survey with representatives from all levels within UNMACA (questionnaires and workshops) and after many consultations with the heads of sections.
- The capacity development advisor also supported the development of the National Staff Association, contributed to the Mine Action International Exchange Program (UNDP MAX) and developed first initiatives for exchange in the field of capacity development activities among UNDP programs in Afghanistan.

Challenges and Risks:

The main challenges for the coming period will be the following.

- The passing of the new Mine Action Law and the establishment of agreements between the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations.

- The establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding among the UN entities with regards to mutual cooperation and management structure for the transition process.
- The availability of an agreed policy and an endorsed Project Document for the Transition Coordination Office for the planning and implementation of activities.
- The establishment of the planned team for Transition Coordination Office.

Future Priorities:

- The structure of the new agency needs to be designed and recruitment process of the core staff to be launched.
- In the coming period, the activities of the Capacity Development Advisor will be focused on three main processes:
- Assisting in the end-state strategic planning of Mine Action (program level);
- Identifying building stones for the design of the future national Mine Action Agency (transition level); this will contribute to determining the key functions, main objectives, individual positions and related competences for the new national Mine Action Agency. These elements will also contribute to the development of a Human Development Plan for the future national Mine Action agency.
- The capacity development advisor will also contribute to the organizational development of the current UNMACA (organizational level).
- All these groups of activities will be carried out in close collaboration with representatives of the main stakeholders of the Mine Action transition process.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 600,282

Received Budget: US\$ 600,282

Shortfall: US\$ 0

Donors: Australia (VTF), DFID and UNDP

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Disaster Risk Management

Capacity Building of the Government Department of Disaster Preparedness

Afghanistan is recurrently hit by natural disasters causing losses to lives, livelihoods and property. In recent decades, this has led to massive problems of food insecurity and population exodus from the worst-hit areas. Between 1970 and 1998, the country experienced 57 large-scale disasters. Vulnerability to disaster risk has increased significantly as coping capacities have been reduced due to prolonged conflict.

UNDP has worked in collaboration with UNAMA, Asian Development Bank and the Government of Afghanistan to strengthen the capacity of key institutions such as the Government's Department of Disaster Preparedness. With funding from the Afghan Emergency Trust Fund (AETF) and the Asian Development Bank, a Disaster Management Framework, a Strategy for Institutional Strengthening in Risk Management, a National Disaster Management Plan and a Training Needs Assessment have been developed.

As part of the Framework, several key interventions have been identified. The AETF has provided funding for the following projects, which are managed by UNDP and implemented by various partners:

- Community Based Disaster Management Programme
- Disaster Management Training Programme
- Disaster Management Information Systems
- Sub-national Disaster Management Plans

Afghanistan Assistance for Declared Drought Emergency

Declared Drought is the government appeal managed by UNDP funded by DFID and CIDA. The fund has been used and different project has been formed in the section the assistance asked for. The projects funded through this appeal as listed as follow;

- Maintenance of Road Access in Winter 2005
- Maintenance and Upgrading of Roads and provincial winter emergency fund
- Water Supply Improvement - Astana Valley
- Oxus River Emergency Embankment Protection
- Support to vulnerable populations in drought-affected areas through the provision of wheat seed and fertilizer for the 2005 spring planting season
- Aibak City Water Supply Project
- Nangarhar Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education
- Farah Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education
- Baghlan Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education
- Ghazni Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education
- Paktika Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education
- Faryab Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education

Assistance for Winterization Project 2005/06

The government appealed for winterization assistance to IDPs and returnees in Kabul and 11 high-risk provinces. The intervention has been made in three main areas;

1. Humanitarian Relief and shelter
2. Public Health
3. Road Clearance
4. Transportation

Achievements:

- The DDP personnel have been trained in basic computer skills.
- A four-member team with representatives of the Government, the United Nations, Red Cross/Crescent and an NGO participated in a technical workshop in Tehran in March.
- Office equipment, including computers and communication sets (HF/VHF), has been provided to DDP.
- Discussions continue with UNDP's Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR), UNAMA, Asian Development Bank, Invent Germany, DDP, and other UNDP Country Offices on disaster management issues, notably the development of the National Disaster Management Plan for Afghanistan.
- UNDP has also mobilized AETF emergency fund for emergency response to avoid flooding of hydro dam in Chak Wardak district.
- 10 National, provincial and district level training work shops conducted for government officials for developing disaster management plans for ministries, provinces and district.
- Officials of DDP were associated and trained in these trainings to conduct similar trainings in different provinces of Afghanistan.
- A disaster training for school children was organized in Nangarhar province, over 1,200 students were trained in emergency evacuation, and a team of students were trained in rescue and first aid.
- Training materials on disaster awareness focusing students are being developed in the form of radio programme, book and posters.
- A Video Conference on "Disaster Management in Afghanistan" was held on 16 January 2006 in which Kabul was linked to Tokyo and Delhi. Officials from DDP, UN agencies, Donors and participated and discussed the disaster management status and issues with experts in Japan and India.
- A team of DDP officials are visiting India on study tour, and they will see and learn disaster management techniques that are currently being practiced there.
- Kept the main roads open for the emergency operation during the winter 2005
- Kept the airstrips open and clean of snow for humanitarian operations in the provinces where the main roads are blocked by snow.
- Cash for work is provided though upgrading of roads project to the communities of the drought stricken areas .
- Government Capacity building in emergency response,
- Establishment of Emergency Operation Centre equipped with trained staff
- Emergency response provided to winter emergencies, food emergencies, river bank protected
- Improved seeds and fertilizers provided to farmers in drought stricken province to increase the product of the yield
- Provision of Safe Drinking Water, Demonstration latrines, Sanitation and Hygiene Education to 132,300 population in six provinces
- Provision of Safe Drinking Water to 60,000 inhabitants of Aibak City through drilling 400 meters deep well

- Providing safe drinking water to IDPs and inhabitants of Astana Valley, Sherin Tagab district of Faryab Province through spring catchments and gravity pipe scheme
- Training of government officials in Disaster Management Information System, and establishing the system in two pilot provinces (Kabul and Kunduz)
- Community-based Disaster Management Awareness and public information campaign through Trainings, workshops, leaflets, booklets, news articles, radio and television programmes
- Formulation of Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme by 70 %

Future Priorities:

- UNDP, in close cooperation of UNAMA, aims to take the lead role in formulating a Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme (CDMP) for Afghanistan. The objective of the programme is to formulate a multi year strategy that will strengthen the capacity of the Government to deal with disasters, both at the national and sub-national levels.
- UNDP also aims, to develop disaster risk management capacity of key government institutions specially DDP by trainings etc under the frame work of CDMP
- UNDP extends its efforts to bring Disaster resilient society through community based disaster management activities, under the CDMP
- To develop DDP as the nodal government institution for disaster risk management and help the department to take its role according to disaster and emergency management act of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, UNDP aims to provide international technical and institutional advisors to the department.
- UNDP will provide technical assistance to DDP to implement the five years Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme
- UNDP technical assists DDP to further develop and better equip the central regional offices of DDP and develop the Emergency Operation Center in to well equipped and effective center.

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$1,300,000
 Funding Received: US\$ 800,000
 Shortfall: US\$ 500,000
 Donors: UNDP core resources, UNDP BCPR

Drought Target Budget: US\$ 6,677,326
 Funding Received: US\$ 6,677,326
 Shortfall: US\$ 0
 Donors: DFID, CIDA

Winterization Assistance Budget; US\$ 13,996,955
 Funding Received US\$ 1,947,202
 Shortfall: US\$ 12,049,753
 Donors: USAID, Norway

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National Human Development Report

The core objective of the project is to support long-term capacity for research, advocacy, and teaching on human development in Afghanistan. The project will also propose human development policy recommendations for Afghanistan to build national capacity to formulate and influence people-oriented strategies and solutions. This project seeks to enrich data collection efforts at the national level, including methodologies for data analysis; influencing UNDP programme/project formulation and policy support; and to serve as a platform for action among civil society actors.

The process of developing the Afghanistan National Human Development Report is now poised to contribute to a refinement of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy and National Development Budget by providing an overall human development vision for the country and direction for medium to long-term development building consensus on the development priorities of the government by launching policy debates and advocacy on human development issues and making recommendation for provincial development and identifying regional/provincial disparities.

Achievements:

- Project concept endorsed by government and relevant stakeholders.
- The first National Human Development Report (NHDR) was launched on 21st of February 2005.
- NHDR and its summaries (English and Dari) was widely distributed to all friends of NHDR, UN agencies, NGOs, Govt. offices at national and International level.
- NHDR was launched in Herat, Mazar-e sharif and Bamyán;
- Shipment of the report to different provinces for regional/provincial launches
- Distribution of the report (Dari) to Government offices and NGOs.
- The project documents of the second phase finalized;
- LPAC passed the project document
- The position of the Project coordinator is announced
- Contract with the translator for Pashto is signed and he started his work
- The contract with the editor is signed to edit the Pashto version.
- NHDR month celebrated at Kabul University
- Presentation on the concept of HD for the students of Kabul University;

Future Priorities:

- Translate the report into Pashto
- Printing of Pashto version.
- Interview of the project coordinator and other project staff;
- Hiring the authors of the NHDR;
- Identify the theme of the second NHDR.
- Contracting the printing company for printing of Pashto aversion
- To do the layout of Pashto version of the report.
- Prepare for the launch in remaining regions of Afghanistan, follow-up and media strategy in Kabul and the regions.
- Identify new advisory panel members;
- Establishment of Center at Kabul University
- Appointment of members of the NHDR circle

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 759,929

Received Budget: US\$ 759,929

Shortfall: US\$0

Donors: World Bank, Canada (CIDA) and UNDP core resources.

Focal Point: Fakhruddin Azizi, Programme Officer (fakhr.azizi@undp.org)

Building Enabling Environment for HIV/AIDS Response in Afghanistan

On 16th of October 2006, UNDP Country Director signed a Preparatory Assistance to start a HIV and AIDS support project for National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) department of the Ministry of Public Health outlining a programme of activities designed to build the capacity of the department in Afghanistan. To support the Ministry of Public Health, UNDP has created a project in two different phases. The first phase was planned to start at 1st of October 2005 the closing date was supposed to be 31st of December 2005. Due to the shortage of the time the project could not achieve its targeted goal within the specified timing. Therefore, UNDP Country Directory generously extended the timing of the first phase of the project up to the end of March 2006. The strategies of the current PA for phase one of the project which has benefited from the advice of the most of the stockholders working on HIV and AIDS in the country particularly the NACP at the Ministry of Public Health are as followings:

Strategy

Goal

The overall goal of the Preparatory Assistance (PA) is to build the capacity of the Ministry of Public Health on HIV/AIDS and facilitate an enabling environment for a multi-sectoral response to prevent the spread of the epidemic and mitigate its impact.

Specific Objectives

Three key objectives are:

1. To finalize and approve the draft project document for the period 2005-2008 (which will replace the current PA)
2. To advocate for and facilitate a multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS
3. To enhance knowledge and capacity in the Ministry of Public Health for a sustained and comprehensive response.

The Project key Activities:

This will be a start up preparatory phase from Oct- Dec 2005. The focus will be on putting in place systems for project implementation including internal capacity development, and will facilitate research and training centers, a library and one provincial VCCT center of the Ministry of Public Health and purchasing of the required furniture and equipment, including facilitating the transportation and Internet connection of the HIV/AIDS Department of the Ministry.

To reduce the risk of HIV transmission among Most-at-risk Population (vulnerable groups) through community based information and support services as well as access to Volunteer Counseling and Confidential Treatment (VCCT) and treatment services, the Ministry established its first VCCT services center in Kabul. Based on national HIV/AIDS strategic plan, it has been planned to establish five more VCCT centers in five main provinces of Afghanistan. The Preparatory phase of the Programme is also considered to facilitate one of the highest priority provinces (Jalalabad) prioritized in the National HIV/AIDS strategic plan.

The UNDP HIV/AIDS project team in collaboration with the HIV/AIDS team in the MoPH will invite proposals and will provide them with small grants for awareness projects. A small amount to be allocated for a National AIDS conference on the world AIDS day (1st Dec). During this period, UNDP HIV/AIDS team should also look at inter agency collaboration for joint action; initial advocacy for commitment building among government and civil society organizations; and strengthening partnerships for outreach.

Key outputs and indicative activities of the project:

1. Strengthened resources and capacity for effective project implementation and monitoring
 - Create a dedicated HIV/AIDS unit within the MoPH and provide appropriate training to staff (hire two national and one international staff; organize training with support from RCC)
 - Accomplishment of a full project document and work plan for main phase of the project (which will then replace the existing PA).
2. Supportive environment through inter-agency collaboration, planning, action and knowledge generation.
 - Form inter-agency Technical Working Group on HIV/AIDS (TWG) to take forward inter-agency collaborative activities.
 - Undertake needs assessment survey to identify existing gaps and resources within various agencies, government departments, CSOs and others.
 - Develop inter-agency plan for joint action with identified roles, responsibilities and resources.
 - Organize National AIDS Conference collectively with other UN/ bi-lateral agencies and NACP on World AIDS Day (Dec 1) for broad based advocacy.
3. Enhanced capacity of the Ministry of Public Health and community based organizations for outreach to vulnerable populations
 - The Preparatory phase of the Programme is also considered to repair the building, purchase of equipment/furniture and pay salary for three months of the staff working in VCCT one provincial VCCT center of one of the highest priority provinces prioritized in the National HIV/AIDS strategic plan
 - In support to the capacity development of HIV/AIDS department of the Ministry of Public Health UNDP will purchase equipment/furniture, double the size of the current prefab of the HIV/AIDS department, connecting the centers, library and the offices with the internet, building shelves and purchasing of office supply and miscellaneous expenses for the offices of NACP
 - Invite proposals and contract CSOs for community based responses (Form coalition of CSOs and strengthen capacity to address mobility related vulnerabilities through pilot initiatives in 2005, follow up in 2006)

Achievements:

- Training centre and a library established for HIV/AIDS training and record keeping at the Ministry of Public Health.
- Office equipment and furniture has been purchased for smoothly running of the project. Jalalabad province VCCT centre is under renovation, which is one of the first National Priority areas on HIV and AIDS.
- UNDP contributed effectively to the development of HIV/AIDS National Strategic Plan (2006-2010) with the ministry of Health.
- Training is in progress for Jalalabad VCCT center, supported by UNDP under the current project.

Challenges and Risks:

- Time is again one of the baggiest constrain against the implementation of the project. Capacity building of the NACP would be another challenge to the team.

Future Priorities: October 2005 – March 2006

Partnerships and Resources:

Target Budget: US\$ 200,000
 Received Budget: US\$ 200,000
 Shortfall: US\$

Donors: UNDP

Number of Project Staff: (Planned) One international and two national staff

Focal Point: Mirwais Sarah (mirwais.sarah@undp.org)
Project Manager: